

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Matins Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Order of Service
Sunday, December 8, 2019

For silent reflection in preparation for worship:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening the Bible

Welcome:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Invocation:

Leader: We enter your presence Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth.

People: We enter your presence Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Leader: Be present with us Holy Spirit, our comforter and guide.

**All: To the one true God, eternally three in one,
be praise in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silence

PRAISE

Hymn of Praise HWB (blue) #177 Creator of the stars at night (vv1,4,5,6) *(rise)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(remain standing)

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
who alone does wondrous things!

(Ps 72:18)

People: Our God has done wondrous things!

His mercy is on those who fear Him

from generation to generation.

He has put down the mighty

and exalted those of low degree.

He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

(adapted Lk 1:50-53)

Hymn of Praise HWB (blue) #318 Joy to the world

(be seated after singing)

Leader: Let us join together in reading the Psalm.

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19.

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**People: May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**People: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**People: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

**All: Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Silence

CONFESSION

Leader: Righteous God of judgment and grace
we confess we have willingly entered
the darkness of division and diversion.

**People: The darkness is our sin
that prevents us from seeing you.
In our arrogance and fear
we create chasms and build walls:
divisions where you would have us love.
In our greed for pleasure and happiness
we are lured into distraction and entertainment:
diversions from seeking your Truth.**

(see Matt 5:44)

(see Rom 13:11)

(see Matt. 6:33)

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God, pour out your mercy on us.

People: Jesus, Bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us peace.

(HWB #702)

All: Amen.

Silence

Kyrie

Leonard Enns

Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e -

The first system of music is in 3/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the vocal line with lyrics. The bass clef staff contains the piano accompaniment, featuring chords and moving bass lines.

lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son,

The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The piano accompaniment includes a prominent bass line with a sharp sign (#) in the second measure.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Ky-rie e - lei - son,

The third system continues the vocal and piano parts. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords and a steady bass line.

Ky-rie e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a double bar line.

Words of Assurance

Leader: The prophet declares "Arise, shine for your light has come!" (Is 60:1)
May you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)

Response to Assurance

All: Christ is the Light of the World! (Jn 1:9)
Our blind eyes have been opened, our deaf ears unstopped. (Is 35:5)
Now we truly see the world around us and hear your calling for us to carry your healing and hope to the world. Amen.
(Vision: Healing and Hope, 1995)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.
Look not to our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Before we offer the peace of Christ to each other,
we especially welcome guests to Waterloo North today.

Introduction of Visitors *(Please speak loudly so that all can hear.)*

Leader: Let us offer each other the sign of Christ's peace.

Passing the Peace of Christ *(rise)*

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: As we prepare to listen to God's Word let us pray:
Gracious God

All: Prepare our hearts to accept your Word.
Silence in us any voice but your own;
that hearing, we may be transformed
by the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the book of Isaiah.

READ Isaiah 11:1-10.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Epistle to the Romans.

READ Romans 15:4-13.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Silence

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord from the Gospel of Matthew.

Hymn to greet the Gospel HWB (blue) #101 Alleluia *(rise)*

READ Matthew 3:1-12.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

Silence *(be seated with the reader)*

Homily

Silence

Hymn of Response HWB (blue) #183 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry (rise)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Life of the Church: Announcements.

Leader: As we enter our time of prayer this morning, let us share experiences of God's presence and lift our prayers of gratitude to God. These are some events for gratitude in the life of our congregation and our world...

Leader: Lord for your goodness and mercy

People: We give you thanks.

Leader: What witness to God's presence or prayers of thanksgiving do you bring this morning? *(Please speak loudly so that all can hear.)*

People: audible sharing or sentence prayers (e.g. "I give thanks..."; "I saw God..")

Leader: Lord for your goodness and mercy

People: We give you thanks.

Leader: Jesus said: "Ask and it will be given you,
Search and you will find;
Knock and the door will be opened for you."

Leader: Let us lift our prayers of petition and intercession to God. These are some events and concerns for prayer in the life of our congregation and our world ...

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: What are the prayers of petition and intercession that you bring this morning?

People: audible sentence prayers (e.g. "I hold in prayer ...")

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your death and resurrection you show us that love is stronger than hate. We pray for our torn and troubled world. May peace and unity grow where hatred and suffering now prevail.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your words and life you invite us to seek your kingdom. We pray that the church in all places may be faithful to you and that we in this congregation may embody your mission to the world.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: By your healing power you bring restoration, hope and comfort. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us who seek healing of body, mind, spirit or relationships.

Silent Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: Hear our prayers.

Leader: We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

All: Lord's Prayer *(see last page)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us speak the affirmation of our faith together:

**People: We believe in God above us,
Maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all living things.
We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth,
to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God with us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving Breath of the church
spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

(adapted, Iona Abbey Worship Book)

SENDING

Hymn of Benediction HWB (blue) #176 Comfort, comfort, O my people *(rise)*

Benediction

Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you prepare the way of the Lord,
in your life, across the street and around the world. Amen.

(Rom 15:13; Matt 3:3; Vision: Healing and Hope)

(be seated)

Silence

Closing the Bible

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Abide in God's love, seek justice and go in peace.

All: Amen.

Offering As an act of sharing with the world what you have received from God's bountiful hand you are invited to place your offering in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Scriptures for next week: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.

Headsets for hearing assistance are available.

Nursery: The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in the washroom next to nursery. The nursery is unstaffed during Matins.

Information Sheets with church news and activities are available in the foyer for those who do not receive them electronically.

Offering: Thank you to those who contribute electronically. Offering cards are available (or use loose change/cash) so that you can participate in the giving of offering worship experience.

Welcome Visitors: We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you would like to learn more about our church and our ministries, including our care groups, education opportunities, seniors group or youth groups, and if you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office or one of the ministers.

At Waterloo North Mennonite Church we welcome all people to participate fully in our Christian community of faith with all its expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities regardless of personal characteristics such as race, ethnic background, age, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, income, or education.

The Lord's Prayer

in flowing style

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy
name, Thy King - dom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in
heav'n. Give us this day our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres pas -
ses, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And
lead us not in - to temp ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil, for Thine is the
Kingdom, the Power, and the Glo - ry for e - ver, A - men.